

Education and Libraries

SELECTED PAPERS OF
~~LOUIS~~ ROUND WILSON

Edited by

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Education and Libraries

Selected Papers by

LOUIS ROUND WILSON



Photograph by Harold "Chips" Weaver

Louis R. Wilson

Education and Libraries

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LOUIS ROUND WILSON

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Edited, with a Biographical

Sketch and Commentary, by

MAURICE F. TAUBER and JERROLD ORNE



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Foreword

Within the covers of this book Librarians Orne and Tauber have brought together in convenient form a series of papers which reveal the thinking of one man who by devotion primarily to the printed word in its many aspects has helped largely to establish a profession of surpassing importance.

This one man, Louis Round Wilson, has shown how a librarian can be not simply a bibliophile occupied in the acquisition, care and keeping of books, but also a scholarly historian, an editor, a promoter and an administrator of large educational enterprises, and through all this a teacher, and a mover of the minds and hearts of men.

In his youthful days spent as a printer's devil, Louis Wilson first found fascination in the printed word, in its physical limitations and in its inherent significance. He became more than a type-setting printer. He found that the exactness of observation required of a printer was required no less of one who wished to have recorded in print the results of his observation and thinking.

The knowledge stood him in good stead when he went to college. He already knew the form, use, and import of words. He found suited to his natural cast of mind the steady classroom drill, under scholarly teachers, in the basic use of words: purity, propriety, and precision. He developed an ability to review his own composition, to practice the classical virtues of unity, coherence, and emphasis; to strive for excellence by removing the un-needed, the trite, and the commonplace. Here was training for a scholar, preparation for an editor. He taught school briefly and then left off teaching, with a realization that his interest was directly in books, that books in themselves created obligations as to presentation, protection, housing, handling, distribution—all of these essential to the diffusion of knowledge—and the promotion of understanding; that for such diffusion and promotion the printed word has been and still is, the